

Message Text

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50

ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 NSC-07

SAM-01 DRC-01 SAJ-01 /115 W

----- 129576

R 081000Z MAY 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 967

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0296

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IZ, UR, CH

SUBJECT: DEPARTURE OF CHINESE AMBASSADOR HU CHENG-FANG

1. CHINESE AMBASSADOR HU CHENG-FANG IS DEPARTING BAGHDAD MAY 12 AFTER HAVING BEEN HERE ONLY 14 MONTHS. HE SAYS HE HAS BEEN REASSIGNED TO HIGHER RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT SPECULATION IS THAT DEPARTURE RELATED EITHER TO EVENTS IN CHINA OR IRAQ.

2. INFORMED SPECULATION HERE IS THAT DEPARTURE RELATED TO KURDISH CONFLICT. ACCORDING TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR CERLES, THERE ARE ABOUT 150 COMMUNISTS OF CHINESE FACTION OF ICP FIGHTING WITH BARZANI KURDS AGAINST CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITION, PAKISTAN AMBASSADOR HAS RELIABLE REPORT THAT ON APRIL 16, FIFTY MEMBERS OF PRO-CHINESE FACTION OF ICP WERE ARRESTED IN BAGHDAD. TRYING TWO EVENTS TOGETHER, IT IS BELIEVED THAT SOVIET ORIENTED ICP, FOLLOWING ITS OFFICIAL ADHERENCE TO RULING NATIONAL FRONT IN JULY 1973, BEGAN PRESSURING BAATH REGIME TO MOVE AGAINST RIVAL COMMUNIST FACTION. REGIME FINALLY DID SO ONLY
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WHEN FIGHTING AGAINST KURDS HEATED UP AND CHINESE

FACTION SUPPORTED BARZANI.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING DEPARTMENT'S OPINION ON
WHETHER DEPARTURE RELATED TO EVENTS IN CHINA.

4. SUBSEQUENT TO DRAFTING ABOVE TURKISH AMB CUHRUK TOLD ME
IRAQI FORCES HAD DISCOVERED CHINESE ARMS WHEN THEY RETOOK
ZAKHO FROM KURDS.

LOWRIE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005